

Appl. No. 09/914,966  
Atty. Docket No. 7456R  
Amendment Dated June 29, 2005  
Reply to Office Action Dated April 7, 2005  
Customer No. 27752

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently amended) An absorbent fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has an average fiber diameter of less than  $10 \pm 5 \mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 12 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber comprises from about 20% to about 99.99% by weight of the fiber of starch.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber further comprises a plasticizer.

Claim 14 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 13 wherein the plasticizer selected from the group consisting of: sorbitol, monosaccharides, disaccharides, glycerol, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 13 wherein the plasticizer is present in the fiber at a level of from about 5% to about 70% by weight of the fiber.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber further comprises a cross-linking agent.

Claim 17 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 16 wherein the cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting of: polyamide-epichlorohydrin resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, glyoxylated polyacrylamide resins, melamine formaldehyde resins, polyethylenimine resins, dialdehyde starch resins and mixtures thereof.

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Claim 18 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 16 wherein the cross-linking agent is present in the fiber at a level of from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of the fiber.

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Previously presented) A fibrous structure comprising a plurality of fibers, wherein at least one fiber is a fiber according to Claim 11.

Claim 21 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an absorbency ranging from about  $1 \frac{\text{g}_{\text{Water}}}{\text{g}_{\text{Dry Structure}}}$  to about  $15 \frac{\text{g}_{\text{Water}}}{\text{g}_{\text{Dry Structure}}}$ .

Claim 22 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a total flexibility ranging from about 1.0 g/cm to about 75 g/cm.

Claim 23 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a geometric mean dry tensile strength ranging from about 10 g/cm to about 1200 g/cm.

Claim 24 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an initial geometric mean wet tensile strength ranging from about 2 g/cm to about 400 g/cm.

Claim 25 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 24 wherein the fibrous structure has an initial geometric mean wet tensile strength ranging from about 2 g/cm to about 200 g/cm.

Claim 26 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a geometric mean decayed wet tensile strength ranging from about 0 g/cm to about 20 g/cm.

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Claim 27 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has a basis weight ranging from about  $10 \text{ g/m}^2$  to about  $450 \text{ g/m}^2$ .

Claim 28 (Previously presented) The fibrous structure according to Claim 20 wherein the fibrous structure has an apparent density ranging from about  $0.04 \text{ g/cm}^3$  to about  $0.12 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .

Claim 29 (Currently amended) A paper product comprising a fibrous structure, wherein the fibrous structure comprises an absorbent fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has an average fiber diameter of less than  $40 \pm \mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 30 (Currently amended) A fibrous structure comprising an absorbent fiber comprising starch, wherein the fiber has an average fiber diameter of less than  $40 \pm \mu\text{m}$  and wherein the fibrous structure has a basis weight ranging from about  $10 \text{ g/m}^2$  to about  $450 \text{ g/m}^2$ .

Claims 31 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber is a melt blown fiber.

Claim 32 (Previously presented) The fiber according to Claim 11 wherein the fiber is a spunbond fiber.